Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:

a plurality of rollers;

a conveyor belt that conveys a recording~~record~~ medium on a conveying surface thereof~~thereon~~, the conveyor belt ~~spanned~~spanning the plurality of rollers and including a recessed portion that includes a top edge defined by the conveying surface;

an ink holding portion that holds ink and comprises a plurality of protrusions projecting from a surface of the recessed portion of the conveyor belt ~~the ink holding portion arranged on a surface of the conveyor belt~~; and

an ink removing member that removes the ink held in the ink holding portion,

wherein a top-most portion of each protrusion is below the top edge of the recessed portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1,

~~further comprising a recessed portion formed on the surface of the conveyor belt; and~~ wherein

the ink holding portion is arranged within the recessed portion to hold ink within the recessed portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 11~~claim 1~~, wherein the conveyor belt includes a recessed portion and the ink holding portion includes a plurality of protrusions formed on a~~the~~ surface of the recessed portion of the conveyor belt.

4. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim 3~~, wherein the plurality of protrusions include at least a first portion that protrudes~~protrude~~ substantially perpendicularly or exactly perpendicularly relative to the conveying surface of the conveyor belt.

5. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim 3~~, wherein the plurality of protrusions extend substantially parallel or exactly ~~in~~ parallel ~~with~~to each other and the plurality of protrusions extend substantially perpendicular or exactly perpendicular~~perpendicularly~~ to a running direction of the conveyor belt.

6. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim 3~~, wherein each of the plurality of protrusions has an overhanging portion thereof that inclines toward~~inclining to~~ a downstream of a running direction of the conveyor belt.

7. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim3~~, wherein an angle between the surface of the recessed portion of the conveyor belt and a face of each protrusion on an upstream side of a running direction of the conveyor belt is larger than an angle between the surface of the recessed portion of the conveyor belt and a face of the protrusion on a downstream side of the running direction of the conveyor belt.

8. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the plurality of protrusions are ~~formed in a recessed portion formed on the surface of the conveyor belt, and~~ positioned below a conveying surface of the conveyor belt on which the recording~~record~~ medium is conveyed.

9. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim3~~, wherein the ink removing member is made of felt.

10. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim 9~~, wherein the ink removing member has a~~the~~ same length as the recessed portion in a running direction of the conveyor belt.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:~~according to claim 1, wherein~~

a plurality of rollers;

a conveyor belt that conveys a recording medium thereon, the conveyor belt spanning the plurality of rollers;

an ink holding portion that holds ink, the ink holding portion ~~includes~~including an absorber arranged on a~~the~~ surface of the conveyor belt; and

an ink removing member that removes the ink held in the ink holding portion and includes a cylindrical roller,

wherein the ink removing member is selectively arrangeable in one of a contacting state where the ink removing member contacts the ink holding member or an un-contacting state where the ink removing member does not contact the ink holding member, and the ink removing member being arranged in the contacting state when the ink holding portion is in a position corresponding to any of the plurality of rollers.

12. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim 11~~, wherein, when at least a portion of the ink holding portion is overlapping~~in a position corresponding to either of~~ any of the plurality of rollers, the ink removing member is brought into contact with the ink holding portion to remove ink.

13. (Original) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ink removing member is made of metallic material.

14. (Currently Amended) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1~~claim 11~~, wherein the ink removing member is a cylindrical roller.

15. (Original) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ink removing member can selectively take a position for being in contact with the ink holding portion and a position for being out of contact with the ink holding portion.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of rollers;

a conveyor belt that conveys a recording~~record~~ medium on a conveying surface thereof~~thereon~~, the conveyor belt spanning~~spanned~~ the plurality of rollers and including a recessed portion that includes a top edge defined by the conveying surface;

an ink holding portion that holds ink and comprises a plurality of protrusions projecting from a surface of the recessed portion of the conveyor belt~~, the ink holding portion arranged on a surface of the conveyor belt~~;

an ink removing member that removes the ink held in the ink holding portion;

a sensor that detects a position of the ink holding portion; and

a drive mechanism that ~~movs~~selectively moves the ink removing member into contact or out of contact with the ink holding portion~~, on the basis of~~ based on ~~a~~the position of the ink holding portion and a running speed of the conveyor belt detected by the sensor,

wherein a top-most portion of each protrusion is below the top edge of the recessed portion.

17. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus, comprising:

the belt conveying mechanism according to claim 1; and

an ink-jet head that ejects ink onto the record medium being conveyed by the conveyor belt ~~of the belt conveyor~~.

18. (New) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conveyor belt includes an inner layer and an outer layer, wherein the conveying surface of the conveyor belt corresponds to a surface of the outer layer.

19. (New) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a second portion that extends from the first portion and projects toward a downstream of a running direction of the conveyor belt.

20. (New) The belt conveying mechanism for an ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ink holding portion is in a position corresponding to any of the plurality of rollers when at least a portion of the ink holding portion is overlapping any of the plurality of rollers and is between any of the plurality of rollers and the ink removing member.